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EASTHAMPSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT

COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL

OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1973

MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

(as at 31st December 1973)

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Vice-Chairman of the Council: Councillor Mrs. M.D.B. Benwell

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* Mrs. M.D.B. Benwell (Vice-Chairman, Health and Housing Committee)	A.G. Mahoney
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T.R. Hopgood	A.J. Wort
* Mrs. J.A. Kay	C.S. Wright

* Members of the Health and Housing Committee

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(as at 31st December 1973)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

David S. Pickup, MB., BS., LMSSA., MFCM., DPH., FRSH.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R.H. Hebbbron, Cert. SIEJB., RSH. Cert. Meat and Foods

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D.L. Wilkinson, Cert. SIEJB., RSH. Cert. Meat and Foods, Cert. Building Inspector
Dip. Sanitary Engineering

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

E.P. James, Cert. SIEJB., RSH. Cert. Meat and Foods
M.J. Gaffey, PHI. Cert., RSH. Dip. Meat and Foods, DMA
R.E. Jones, PHI. Cert., RSH. Dip. Meat and Foods
I. Lloyd, PHI Dip.

STUDENT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Miss E. Bowden
(Left 31st July 1973)

PESTS OFFICERS

W.J. Tagg
J. Minns

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

N.C. Bellamy	Administrative Assistant
Mrs. W.I. Arthur	Secretary to Medical Officer of Health
Miss E. Sherman	Clerk
Mrs. M. Littlewood	Clerk/Typist

EASTHAMPSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

EASTHAMPSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my seventh Annual Report on the State of the Public Health of the Easthampstead Rural District for the year ending 31st December 1973. This will be my last Annual Report as on 31st March 1974 the statutory office of Medical Officer of Health ceased to exist.

Due to Local Government and National Health Service Reorganisation, this is a much smaller Report than usual and does not contain the Engineer and Surveyor's and Housing Manager's Sections. It is, in fact, an account of the work of the Public Health Department.

The health of the area has remained good with a death rate below the national average. No maternal deaths have occurred in the area during the year.

The Vital Statistics are contained in the body of the Report with comments when necessary. From a study of the relevant Vital Statistics it will be seen that the Easthampstead Rural District is a healthy area to live in and all indices compare well with the national average. Having said this, I must repeat my comments of previous years that the picture is not a complete one, as we do not at present know the incidence in the population of the chronic degenerative diseases which, apart from accidents, are the main

killer diseases in our society today. These problems will, hopefully, be solved, in time, by the newly reorganised National Health Service.

I would like to thank Mr. Fairman, Hospital Secretary, Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, for the information on Outpatient Clinics held at Heatherwood Hospital and the County Medical Officer of Health for supplying information relating to County Council services in the District. My thanks are also due to Mr. Hebborn, the Public Health Inspectors and the staff of the Health Department for their efficiency and enthusiasm.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

David S. Pickup

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The Easthampstead Rural District is an area of 27,610 acres in South East Berkshire. The District is irregular in outline with all the boundaries being artificial except the extreme south-west which is marked by the Blackwater River. The general configuration of the ground is undulating, the highest point being Caesars Camp (416 ft.).

Geologically the area can be divided into two very different parts. The northern part of the District is mostly on London Clay while the southern part lies on the Bagshot Sands. This difference in the nature of the soil gives very different characteristics to the two halves of the District; the northern parishes of Binfield, Warfield and part of Winkfield being rich agricultural land while the southern parishes of Sandhurst, Crowthorne and parts of Easthampstead and Winkfield are covered with pine woods and heath.

The New Town of Bracknell is situated roughly in the centre of the District and includes parts of the old parishes of Warfield, Winkfield, Binfield and Easthampstead; the Designated area is 3,286 acres.

STATISTICS

Area	27,610 acres	
	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>
No. of habitable houses as at 31st March 1974	21,251	21,699
Rateable Value as at 1st April 1974	£5,155,397	£5,311,401
Product of a New Penny Rate for the year ended 31st March 1974 (estimated)	£97,487	£107,670
	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Population (mid-year estimate)	67,690	68,970

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
<u>DEATHS</u>		
Total No. of Deaths	467	457
Death Rate per 1,000 population	6.9	6.6
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.0	11.0
England and Wales Death Rate per 1,000 population .	12.1	12.0
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
No. of legitimate live births	1,081	1,042
No. of illegitimate live births	46	48
	<u>1,129</u>	<u>1,088</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.7	15.8
Corrected Birth Rate	15.0	14.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	4%	4%
England and Wales Birth Rate per 1,000 population .	14.8	13.7
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>		
No. of Stillbirths	6	14
Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths	5.0	13.0
Total Live and Stillbirths	1,135	1,102
England and Wales Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths	12.0	12.0
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u>		
Number of Deaths under 1 year	22	10
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>		
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	19.0	9.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	19.0	9.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	42.0	22.0
England and Wales Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births	17.0	17.0
<u>NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>		
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 Live Births	12.0	8.0
Total Infant Deaths under 4 weeks of age	13	9
England and Wales Neonatal Mortality Rate	12.0	11.0

1972 1973

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths of Infants under 1 week per 1,000 Live Births	9.0	6.0
Total Infant Deaths under 1 week	10	7
England and Wales Early Neonatal Mortality Rate	10.0	10.0

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths	14.0	19.0
England and Wales Perinatal Mortality Rate.. .. .	22.0	21.0

MATERNAL DEATHS

Number of Maternal Deaths	Nil	Nil
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Causes of Death in the Easthampstead Rural District

	Males 1973	Females 1973	Total	Total 1972
All Causes	238	219	457	467
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	1	1	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity	-	-	-	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	6	12	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	5	10	15	17
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	27	7	34	27
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	15	15	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	3	3	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	-	3	3
Leukaemia	2	1	3	7
Other Malignant Neoplasm, etc.	12	14	26	21
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	-	2	2	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1	2	8
Anaemias	1	2	3	4
Mental Disorders	-	1	1	1
Meningitis	1	-	1	1
Multiple Sclerosis	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	1	4	5	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	3	4	1
Hypertensive Heart Disease	1	4	5	6
Ischaemia Heart Disease	65	37	102	104
Other Forms of Heart Disease	3	15	18	19
Cerebrovascular Disease	28	33	61	50
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	14	19	23
Pneumonia	21	12	33	39
Bronchitis and Emphysema	22	7	29	28
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	2	3	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1	7
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	2	3	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	-	-	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	4	5	7
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	-	3	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	1	3	5
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	-	-	-	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	2	-	2	1
Congenital Anomalies	4	1	5	6
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	1	3	7
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	-	-	1
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	-	5	5	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	5	9	7
All Other Accidents	7	3	10	9
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	3	1	4	3
All Other External Causes	-	1	1	-

COMMENTS ON STATISTICS

POPULATION

The natural increase in population, i.e. the excess of births over deaths was 631, the Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 1,280 greater than the previous year; there was, therefore, an increase due to migration into the Rural District of 649 compared with 1,748 in 1972.

Year	Population		Year	Population	
	Designated Area	E.R.D. including New Town		Designated Area	E.R.D. including New Town
1901	Census	15,757	1961	21,250	45,170
1911	Census	17,530	1962	22,250	47,500
1921	Census	18,751	1963	23,500	49,050
1931	Census	18,010	1964	25,400	51,210
1951	5,250	24,790	1965	26,300	53,750
1952	5,750	25,620	1966	26,584	55,010
1953	6,250	26,710	1967	27,500	56,070
1954	8,000	28,190	1968	31,000	60,180
1955	9,500	30,290	1969	33,600	62,680
1956	11,250	32,390	1970	36,055	64,080
1957	13,250	34,730	1971	33,953	63,926
1958	16,000	37,830	Census		
1959	18,000	39,880	1972	37,000	67,690
1960	19,500	41,840	1973	38,900	68,970

BIRTHS

There were 1,088 births in the Rural District in 1973. This gives a crude birth rate of 15.8 per 1,000 population and a corrected birth rate of 14.2. The Registrar General's comparability factor being 1.03.

Year	Birth Rate E.R.D.	Birth Rate E. & W.	Year	Birth Rate E.R.D.	Birth Rate E. & W.
1956	17.9	15.7	1965	17.8	18.1
1957	17.7	16.1	1966	16.4	17.7
1958	20.7	16.4	1967	15.7	17.2
1959	21.2	16.5	1968	14.2	16.9
1960	21.2	17.1	1969	13.9	16.3
1961	19.9	17.4	1970	14.4	16.0
1962	19.2	18.0	1971	15.1	16.0
1963	18.8	18.2	1972	15.0	14.8
1964	18.1	18.4	1973	14.2	13.7

DEATHS

The total number of deaths in the Rural District was 457, a decrease of 10 on the previous year. The crude death rate is 6.6 per thousand and the corrected death rate is 11.0 per thousand, the area comparability factor being 0.92. These figures as would be expected are below the national average of 12.0 per thousand.

The number of deaths due to Lung Cancer was 34, 7 more than in 1972. Deaths from Coronary Heart Disease number 102, a decrease of 2 on the previous year. Coronary Heart Disease still remains the biggest single cause of death.

MORTUARY

Post Mortems continue to be undertaken by the Coroner's Pathologist.

The number of bodies stored and Post Mortems held are as follows:-

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Number of bodies stored:	121	166
Number of Post Mortems:	117	107

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Scarlet Fever		96
Whooping Cough		7
Measles		61
Dysentery		7
Acute Meningitis		3
Acute Poliomyelitis (a)	Paralytic	-
	(b) Non-Paralytic	-
Diphtheria		-
Acute Encephalitis (a)	Infective	-
	(b) Post-Infectious	-
Typhoid Fever		-
Paratyphoid Fever		-
Food Poisoning		7
Smallpox		-
Ophthalmia Noenatorum		10
Anthrax		-
Malaria		-
Infective Jaundice		-

Measles

Year	Notifications Received	No. Vaccinated
1959	1,615	
1960	16	
1961	1,764	
1962	359	
1963	1,034	
1964	304	
1965	881	
1967	985	
1968	57	
1969	86	377
1970	317	1,564
1971	268	1,215
1972	130	1,064
1973	61	807

Tuberculosis

Notifications of Tuberculosis

Age Groups	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	-	-
2 - 4 years	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 years	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 years	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 years	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 years	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	1	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	2	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	-	-	-	-
75 and over	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	-	-	-

The number on the Register at 31st December 1973 was as follows:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Males	89	5
Females	63	13

IMMUNISATION

Immunisation is performed by General Practitioners in their Surgeries on behalf of the Local Health Authority and also by Medical Staff of the County Council at Child Health Clinics and in the schools. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the figures in the Tables.

	Year of Birth					Others under age 16
	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969/1968	
Diphtheria	-	2	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	2	11
Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	-	-	-	29	1
Triple (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)	17	803	72	3	5	-
Poliomyelitis	17	808	72	2	12	5
Measles	-	586	207	8	6	-

Rubella

381 girls aged between 11 and 14 were vaccinated against Rubella during 1973.

B.C.G.

B.C.G. vaccination against Tuberculosis is offered (with parents consent) to all children at ages 12 - 14 years who, following a skin test, show that they may be susceptible to this infection.

	<u>Skin Tested</u>	<u>Vaccinated</u>
Brakenhale Comprehensive School, Bracknell	48	43
Garth Hill School, Bracknell	131	120
Wellington College, Crowthorne	83	83

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION

	<u>Certificates Stamped</u>	
	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
T.A.B./T.	-	2
T.A.B.	42	18
Cholera	610	757
T.A.B./Cholera	9	8
Smallpox	1,178	1,377
Poliomyelitis	9	3
Tetanus	10	-
Non-Vaccination letter (Smallpox)	6	16
(Cholera)	-	1
Gamma Globulin	1	-
	<u>1,864</u>	<u>2,472</u>

MEDICAL SCREENING OF NEW EMPLOYEES

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Screened	45	82
Interviewed	1	2
Interviewed and Examined	1	-
Extra Years Employment	1	1

In addition to this, a large number of County Council staff were medically examined, including entrants for Teacher Training Colleges and Firemen.

MEDICAL ASPECTS OF HOUSING

The Council operates a points system for housing families. In this system, up to ten points may be awarded on social/medical grounds where housing would, in my opinion, ameliorate the social/medical condition either of the applicant or the family.

Most of these cases require an environmental housing visit by the District Public Health Inspector in addition to a social/medical assessment by myself. I have recorded below the number of cases on the waiting list who have been investigated with a view to awarding medical points.

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Total number of applications for rehousing investigated:	52	62
Number awarded medical/social points:	40	53

MEALS ON WHEELS

A total of 10,674 Meals were served in 1972. The number of Meals served in 1973 was 10,915, an increase of 241. I would like to thank Mrs. Best, BEM., Centre Organiser of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, for this information.

	<u>No. of Meals Served</u>
Bracknell	4,229
Binfield	828
Winkfield	1,658
Warfield	472
Crowthorne	1,756
Sandhurst	<u>1,972</u>
	<u>10,915</u>

HEATHERWOOD HOSPITAL

Heatherwood Hospital is a General Hospital and contains Maternity, Gynaecological, Paediatric, Surgical and Orthopaedic beds. The present number of beds is 278.

The weekly programme of Out Patient Clinics at Heatherwood Hospital is as follows:-

MONDAY	A.M.	A.N.C. Physical Medicine E.N.T. Dermatology
	P.M.	Surgical Orthopaedic Dentistry Psychiatry A.N.C.
TUESDAY	A.M.	Surgical Gynaecology Medicine Paediatrics
	P.M.	Gynaecology Chest Psychiatry
WEDNESDAY	A.M.	A.N.C. Orthopaedic Rheumatology
	P.M.	Fractures
THURSDAY	A.M.	Booking Clinic (Maternity) Orthopaedic Orthopaedic
	P.M.	Medicine Paediatrics Psychiatry
FRIDAY	A.M.	G.P. Booking Clinic (Maternity) Surgical Ophthalmology Dentistry
	P.M.	Chest Psychiatry Gynaecology
SATURDAY	A.M.	Plastic and Hand Surgery

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity generally throughout the area. Piped water supply is available in every parish, and is supplied as follows:-

Parish of Winkfield

The North Surrey Water Co.,
The Causeway,
Staines.

(On 1st October 1973 the South West Suburban Water Company and the Woking and District Water Company were amalgamated under the title of the North Surrey Water Company).

Parishes of Bracknell, Crowthorne,
Sandhurst, Easthampstead, Binfield,
and Warfield

The Mid-Southern Water Co.,
Frimley Green,
Camberley.

Routine samples of water in ice-making machines were taken from two premises in the district, one of which was found to be unsatisfactory. Further investigations were made and remedial works were undertaken. Later samples showed that the machine was satisfactory.

A bacteriological and chemical sample of mains water was taken from a cottage in Winkfield Lane, Winkfield. The bacteriological analysis proved satisfactory, but the Public Analyst reported, that the water had an unpleasant "soapy" taste and odour, and was of borderline quality. The North Surrey Water Company were informed of the occurrence and they carried out their own investigations. This resulted in the main being flushed. A further chemical analysis carried out by the Water Company proved satisfactory.

A complaint about the water supply was received from the occupier of a house in Longdown Road, Sandhurst, but a bacteriological sample was satisfactory, and a chemical analysis also showed no contamination.

A complaint of "worms" in the water supply from a house in Binfield proved on examination of a sample brought in by the complainant, to be midge larvae. A direct sample taken by the Public Health Inspector showed no evidence of larvae.

A request was received from a Film Company to ascertain the bacteriological purity of a water tanker which was to be used for the storage of water for human consumption on a film set in Morocco. Samples and swabs taken from the tanker proved unsatisfactory. Advice was given on how the tanker should be cleansed. These operations were carried out and subsequent water samples taken from the tanker proved satisfactory.

The Film Company were informed of these findings and also advised on water sterilisation procedures for the water to fill the tanker when it arrived in Morocco.

A complaint about the water supply from the occupier of a house in Crowthorne was made and it was alleged that the water was suspected of causing stomach upsets, but bacteriological and chemical samples taken in November showed the water to be of a satisfactory nature.

A complaint was also received from the occupier of a house in Binfield about the condition of the water supply and a bacteriological sample taken on 26th November 1973 was unsatisfactory. However, certain cleansing operations were carried out to the main leader tank, and subsequent samples taken from two taps were both satisfactory.

During the year twenty-two samples of drinking water were taken as follows:-

	No. of Samples	
	<u>Bacteriological</u>	<u>Chemical</u>
Mains Water, Bracknell	3	1
Mains Water, Binfield	3	1
Mains Water, Crowthorne	2	1
Mains Water, Sandhurst	2	1
Mains Water, Warfield	2	-
Mains Water, Winkfield	5	1

FLUORINE CONTENT OF WATER

The parish of Winkfield derives its supply from the North Surrey Water Company whose water has a fluorine content of an insignificant quantity, as would be anticipated from a river source. The average fluorine content of water in supply during 1973 was 0.20 mg/l - the maximum recorded was 0.26 mg/l, the minimum 0.14.

The remainder of the Rural District derives its supply from the Mid-Southern Water Company. The fluoride content of the normal supply to the Rural District from this Company is low, in the range of 0.1 - 0.2 mg/l, and this is naturally occurring. When necessary, a supplementary source is brought into use, and this has a natural fluoride content of 1.6 mg/l. On these occasions, the fluoride content of the supply is in the range of 0.4 - 0.8 mg/l.

I would express my thanks to the two Water Companies concerned who have supplied this information.

PLUMBO-SOLVENT ACTION

The water supplied in the District is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

STAND-PIPES

There are no houses in the Rural District supplied by means of stand-pipes.

SWIMMING POOLS

Bacteriological sampling of swimming pool water continued in 1973, and forty-two samples were taken from the following:-

Wildridings School	6
Harmanswater	3
Branksome Hill School	1
Scotland Hill School	1
Wellington College	1
St. Michael's School	1
Garth Hill School	2
Ascot Heath School	1
Ranelagh School	1
Sandy Lane	1
Winkfield Place Pool	2
Meadow Vale School	2
Sports Centre - Competitors Pool	5
Teaching Pool	6
Training Pool	7
Footbath	<u>2</u>
	42

In addition six chemical samples were taken as a check on the free chlorine in the Sports Centre pools.

Few problems were experienced with the bacteriological quality of the water in the swimming pools during the year, although occasionally some unsatisfactory samples were received. The pool managers carried out the Department's recommendations to rectify these faults.

MAIN DRAINAGE

The arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the District are good.

POLLUTION OF WATER COURSES AND STREAMS

The Thames Conservancy Board is the authority primarily concerned with pollution of main water courses, rivers and streams in the District. They take frequent samples from water-courses, and set the standards that they require of sewage works effluents. These standards vary for different works.

The Council through its Public Health Department administer the Public Health Acts in respect of pollution of ponds, ditches and water-courses in the area, and during the year eight chemical samples were taken of

various effluents, and where there was evidence of pollution, the attention of the persons concerned was drawn to it.

Following a report of dead fish in the Mill Pond at Great Hollands a chemical analysis of the water was made but there was no obvious cause from the analysis for the death of the fish. The Angling Club experts were of the opinion that death occurred as a result of overcrowding and rough handling during transfer from Binfield Brick and Tile Works.

This was confirmed by Thames Conservancy laboratory examination of dead fish.

The Thames Conservancy Board must also now be notified, as well as the Rural District Council, under the Deposit of Poisonous Wastes Act, 1972, of all classified poisonous waste disposed of within its area.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS BY DISTRICT INSPECTORS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Complaints	314
Visits and Revisits	952
Work in progress	37
Moveable dwellings	335
Water Supplies	77
Infectious Diseases	412
Land Charges (Searches)	124
Markets	62
Interviews, Builders, etc.	87
Noise	123
Miscellaneous	257

HOUSING ACTS

Housing Inspections	178
Improvement Grants and Loans	36
Rent Act	4

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Food Complaints	80
Food Shops	253
Ice Cream Premises	30
Dairies	19
Butchers' Premises	145
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	133
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations	183
Food Hygiene (Markets, Staffs and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations	50
Licensed Premises	43

FACTORY ACTS

Inspections (including Bakehouses)	95
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MISCELLANEOUS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	325
Petroleum Acts	121
Clean Air Act	278
Swimming Pools	60
Plans checked	54
Animal Boarding Establishments	27
Pet Animals Act	11
Waste Foods Order	5
Civic Amenities Act	30
Visits to Public Health Laboratory and Public Analyst	123
Letters and Memorandum sent out	1,804

NOTICES SERVED

Statute	Preliminary Notices	Statutory Notices	Court Proceedings
Public Health Acts	34	4	-
Housing Acts	4	-	6
Food and Drugs Act	30	-	-
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	32	-	-
Factories Act	2	-	-
Other Acts	16	-	-
TOTAL	118	4	6

HOUSING ACT, 1957

During the year three houses were represented by the Medical Officer of Health as being unfit for human habitation. A Demolition Order was made in two cases, a Closing Order in one. Nine families from unfit houses were rehoused during 1973. In addition, two Closing Orders were determined, the properties concerned having been made fit for human habitation to the satisfaction of the Council. It is interesting to note that since 1936 some 254 properties have been dealt with by the Council under the Housing Acts, and the current Register which has been in use since then has now been completely filled.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

335 visits were made to caravans and caravan sites during the year.

The number of site licences are as follows:-

Sites operating as at 31st December 1972

	<u>Privately Owned Sites</u>	
	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Holiday</u>
(a) Individual	6	-
(b) Multiple (more than three vans)	10	1
Total number of caravans	590	120

A number of complaints were received during the year relating to conditions at one of the large sites in the area, which were brought to the attention of the site owners. Action was taken by them to deal with these complaints and the site was rewired for electricity, fire hose reels were installed to the standard recommended by the Fire Prevention Officer, rubbish was cleared off the site, a new pump-house was built connected to the existing drainage system together with new pumps, all sanitary blocks were brought up to a good standard being cleaned and redecorated, and by the end of the year work had commenced to provide accommodation for a Launderette and bathing facilities.

GYPSIES AND CARAVAN DWELLERS OF NO FIXED ABODE

There is one Council owned site occupied by twelve families.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number in District</u>
Bakehouses	6
Cafes and Restaurants	21
Food Shops	152
Licensed Premises	62
Butchers ^o Shops	29
Fried Fish Shops	8
	<u>278</u>

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Six cases under Section 2 were taken during the year.

1. Sale of mouldy pasties. Fined £20.00 with £10.00 costs.
2. Sale of loaf containing a steel nut. Given conditional discharge for one year.
3. Sale of mouldy cheese. Fined £10.00 with £5.00 costs.
4. Sale of mouldy liver and bacon croquettes. Fined £30.00 and £10.00 costs.
5. Sale of loaf containing a piece of wire. Fined £50.00 and £41.00 costs.
6. Sale of loaf containing a piece of metal from baking tin. Fined £50.00 with £10.00 costs.

Eighty-six complaints about food were dealt with during the year, the main causes of complaint being:-

Foreign Bodies	41
Tainted or contaminated	2
Dirty milk bottles	12
Stale	15
Possible cause of food poisoning	1
Mouldy	15

Most of these were taken up with the vendors or manufacturers and appropriate warning letters sent.

UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED

The following, after being examined and found unfit for human consumption, were voluntarily surrendered to the Department for disposal and destroyed.

	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
Meat in retail shops	-	7	92
Cooked meat and meat products	-	-	10
Canned meats	-	1	16
Other canned foods	-	11	43
Fish (fresh)	-	-	18
Other foods	-	10	70
Other foods (Frozen - due to cabinet breakdown)	1	13	92
	3	5	5

IMPORTED FOOD REGULATIONS, 1968

At the automated food warehouse on the Southern Industrial Area of Bracknell, it has been necessary to inspect imported goods in containers not cleared by Port Health Authorities at port of entry to this country in accordance with the above named Regulations.

Samples are taken to check the quality of the product and efficient canning of the goods which consist mainly of tinned tomatoes, orange juice, grapefruit juice, lemon juice and fruit salad.

PETROLEUM ACTS, 1928 and 1936

There are sixty-nine premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit in the area, the total amount licensed being 303,500 gallons. The Berkshire County Council took over the licensing of petroleum installations on 1st April 1974.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses within the area of the Council.

ICE CREAM

Seven samples of ice-cream were taken during the year, all of which proved satisfactory, being placed in Grade 1.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The Berkshire County Council take samples at monthly intervals from Plant licensed by them of the various grades of milk. In the past we have received details of samples taken, but as the great majority of these are satisfactory, the County Council have now discontinued this practice. They will notify us of any unsatisfactory samples taken in this District - none was notified during 1973.

Nine samples of school milk (pasteurised) taken by the Public Health Inspectors during the year were satisfactory to both the methylene blue and phosphatase tests.

GAME LICENCES

Five shopkeepers were registered during 1973 to deal in game under the Game Act, 1831.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958

Two slaughtermen resident in this District were licensed to operate by renewal of their licences.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1960

There are no egg pasteurisation premises in this District.

POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry processing premises within the District.

MEAT INSPECTION

There is no slaughterhouse in the District.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1953

Section 74/75

Licensing under these Sections relates to all Public Halls and other Halls and premises used for Public Performances of Music, Singing or Dances. The premises are inspected for safety precautions, and as a result of these inspections, licences are issued subject to conditions of safety. The following premises were licensed in 1973:-

The Jolly Gardener, Winkfield
Parish Hall, Crowthorne
Sports Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell
Harmanswater Community Centre, Bracknell
Easthampstead Community Centre, Bracknell
Easthampstead Parish Centre, Bracknell
St. Mary's Parish Centre, Wellington Road, Sandhurst
Rose and Crown, High Street, Sandhurst
Newtown Pippin, Ralph's Ride, Bracknell
Admiral Cunningham, Priestwood Square, Bracknell
Sandhurst Social Club, Wellington Road, Sandhurst
Bullbrook Community Centre, Bracknell
Brakenhale School, Bracknell
Priestwood Community Centre, Bracknell
Pratt Memorial Hall, Winkfield Row
Bracknell and District British Legion Club
Jasmine Chinese Restaurant, 3 Market Place, Bracknell
Bridge House, Wokingham Road, Bracknell
Red Lion, High Street, Bracknell
Green Man, Crowthorne Road, Bracknell
St. Joseph's Church Centre, Bracknell

A licence was also issued for a one day Disco Show held in a Marquee off Western Road, Bracknell on 29th September 1973.

Section 122

One person trading as Hawker of Food was registered in 1973. Thirty inspections were made during the year.

Section 129

The Council has adopted Byelaws regulating the hygienic conditions of premises and persons carrying on the trade of Hairdresser and Barber. Two persons were newly registered by the Council under this Section during the year. Twenty visits were made to all premises during the year.

THEATRES ACT, 1968 AND CINEMATOGRAPH ACTS, 1909 AND 1952

The system of licensing is to control safety requirements relative to seating, fire precautions, exits, stage equipment and the like. Licences for the performance of stage plays are issued, subject to safety conditions, on an occasional basis, valid for one month. The one Cinema in Bracknell is licensed under the Cinematograph Acts - this closed on the 9th February but re-opened on 17th March 1974.

Thirteen occasional licences were issued during 1973 in respect of the following premises:-

School Hall, Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell
School Hall, Garth Hill Lower School, Sandy Lane, Bracknell
School Hall, Ranelagh School, Bracknell
School Hall, Edgbarrow School, Crowthorne
Parish Hall, Heath Hill Road, Crowthorne
Assembly Hall, South East Berks. College of Further Education, Bracknell
Little Theatre, South East Berks. College of Further Education, Bracknell.

In addition the South Hill Park Arts Centre came into operation before the end of the year and Cinema, Theatre and Public Dancing, Singing and Music Licences were issued to operate for one year from the 15th December 1973.

PET ANIMALS

Six licences to keep Pet Shops were renewed during the year, these are periodically inspected, eleven visits being made during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT, 1963

The Act provides for the licensing and inspection of Boarding Establishments for animals (cats and dogs). Eight establishments were licensed during the year and twenty-seven visits were made.

AIR POLLUTION

There are three confirmed Smoke Control Areas in this district - No. 1 covering 180 acres in the Priestwood area of Bracknell which came into force on 1st September 1969.

Area No. 2 comprising 1,680 acres in the areas known as Great Hollands, Wildridings, Hanworth, Birch Hill, Crown Wood and the Southern Industrial Area, and Area No. 3 covering 605 acres in the Easthampstead and Harmanswater areas were confirmed by the Department of the Environment and came into operation on 1st July 1973.

Priestwood II Smoke Control Area No. 4 comprising the area of Bracknell extending to Warfield Road, and Smoke Control Area No. 5 - comprising the Bullbrook area of Bracknell, are at present awaiting confirmation by the Department of the Environment.

DEPOSIT OF POISONOUS WASTE ACT, 1972

This Act penalises the depositing on land of poisonous, noxious or polluting waste so as to give rise to an environmental hazard and requires the giving of notices in connection with the removal and deposit of waste.

Notifications are received from time to time from firms in the Rural District who make arrangements for waste to be deposited at various places outside the area.

NOISE CONTROL

Aircraft Noise

As in previous years, a programme of aircraft noise recordings was made in the District during June and July 1973 by Dr. Pretlove of Reading University. He also carried out similar recordings in Reading, Wokingham, Bagshot and Hambledon.

He supplied tables showing comparable and other readings - dates, times of day and dbA readings of peaks of 87 dbA and over (approximate equivalent of 100 PNdb and over) together with total peaks recorded each day of 60 PNdb and over. These recordings were taken once more at Winkfield Radio and Space Research Field Station.

From the information supplied, it was clear that aircraft noise in this District continues to be "very annoying". Particularly annoying are aircraft passing over Sandhurst, Bracknell and Binfield on approach to the glide path on descents, when it is quite noticable that many such aircraft appear to be very low, and according to type and state of trim, can be very noisy and disturbing.

In endeavouring to record the immediate effect of descending aircraft over Bracknell itself, a two day recording was set up on the roof of the Council Offices at Easthampstead House on 1st and 2nd August 1973 during a time when easterly winds were blowing. Unfortunately a change of wind occurred during the two day period which reversed the flight path of aircraft. Analysis of this recording made by Dr. Pretlove showed that the N.N.I. for Bracknell during the time when aircraft are approaching the glide path on descent is approximately 39/40, whereas that applicable when aircraft are taking off from Heathrow to Woodley/Midhurst Minimum Noise Route is approximately 33. These findings indicate an annoyance factor which is intolerable in the centre of a town, making intelligent telephone conversations and Committee and Council meetings difficult to conduct, particularly in the hot weather when windows of necessity have to be kept open.

Analysis of the foregoing data was supplied to the Department of Trade and Industry and Local Authorities' Aircraft Noise Council. The Council expressed strong objection to this "noise pollution" of its area and urged Government action to minimise aircraft noise.

PEST CONTROL

This service is undertaken by two whole time Pests Officers, Mr. W. Tagg and Mr. J. Minns. During the twelve months ended 31st December 1973 the following work was carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	<u>Premises including Business Premises</u>	<u>Agricultural Premises</u>
Number of Properties in the District	29,553	230
Number of premises inspection as a result of notification	794	20
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infected by		
(a) Rats	641	20
(b) Mice	153	14

No sewers were infested by rats during the year.	Sewer testing was carried out in 35 manholes (10%) in Owlsmoor, Sandhurst and Bracknell.
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In addition, the Pests Officers dealt with the following:-

Wasps Nests	676 (destroyed)
Swarms of Bees	30 (not destroyed)
Cockroaches	42 premises
Silverfish	24 premises
Ants	387 premises
Cat and Dog Fleas	58 treatments
Squirrels in roofs	34 premises
Mosquitos	32 treatments
Rabbits and Foxes	52 earths or burrows
Cluster Fly and Blow Fly	45 premises
Carpet Beetle	22 premises
Red Mite	37 premises
Larder Beetles	2 treatments
House Fly and Blow Fly	11 treatments

(c) REPORTED ACCIDENTS

	Number Reported Non-Fatal	Investigated	Action Recommended		No Action
			Formal Warning	Informal Advice	
Offices	1	-	-	-	-
Retail Shops	15	10	-	2	8
Wholesale Shops Warehouses	17	14	-	2	12
Catering Establishments open to public and canteens	3	2	-	2	-
TOTAL	36	26	-	6	20

(d) ANALYSIS OF REPORTED ACCIDENTS

	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale Warehouses	Catering Establishments open to public and canteens
Machinery	-	1	3	-
Transport	-	1	8	-
Falls to persons	1	9	-	-
Stepping on or striking against object or person	-	1	-	-
Handling goods	-	1	5	-
Fires and explosions	-	-	-	1
Use of hand tools	-	2	-	-
Not otherwise specified	-	-	1	2
TOTAL	1	15	17	3

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

(a) REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

	No. of Premises Registered during the year	Total Number of Registered Premises at end of year	Registered Premises requiring a general inspection during the year
Offices	24	186	43
Retail Shops	9	262	67
Wholesale Shops	4	19	6
Catering Establishments	6	65	14
Fuel Storage Depots	-	3	1
TOTAL	43	535	131
TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES UNDER THE ACT			297

(b) ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Number of Contraventions found</u>
4	Cleanliness 32
6	Temperature 15
7	Ventilation 19
8	Lighting 5
9	Sanitary conveniences 5
10	Washing facilities 17
11	Supply of drinking water 1
12	Clothing accommodation 10
15	Eating facilities 2
16	Floors, passages and stairs 5
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery 1
24	First Aid 11
-	Other matters 32
	<u>155</u>

REGISTRATION AND INSPECTIONS

Further progress has been made during the year - about a quarter of the registered premises receiving a general inspection. The New Town Centre of Bracknell is nearing completion, and during the year a large Departmental Store (Bentalls) opened, employing over 350 staff.

OPERATION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE ACT

Inspections of the new shops in the Town Centre has continued, and it has been quite usual to find inadequate lighting and absence of permanent ventilation in many of the new premises. This arises despite liaison at the planning stage with the Bracknell Development Corporation, but less so with shop and office fitting contractors.

ACCIDENTS

The number of accidents reported during the year was 36, the highest number so far received. Of these 17 related to accidents at a large computerised warehouse on the Southern Industrial Estate referred to in my Report for 1972. In only one instance at this large warehouse was it felt that the actual work involved had caused the accident, and as a result of representations made by this Department, the method of working was changed and to date this has appeared to work satisfactorily.

The remainder of the accidents as last year were the result of carelessness by the individual concerned, and no fault could be laid at the door of the employer.

It is now ten years since the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act became law, and it is interesting to look at the achievements in this area. During that time the New Town Centre of Bracknell has been built and is nearing completion, many of the old premises having been demolished. As a contrast, in other parts of the district are small village shops, many of them exempt from the provisions of the Act.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The Act has undoubtedly brought improved conditions, especially with regard to ventilation and lighting, but perhaps could have said to have failed because of the lack of proper legal standards, merely advisory ones not being sufficient. The exemptions from registration could also be said to be a defect of the Act.

Modern buildings are unit type buildings, where no particular office functional set up is planned at the planning stage other than to provide a floor on which partitions can be moved around at will, leading to problems of ventilation and lighting of internal offices. Similarly shops are designed as units before it is known what type of businesses are going to occupy them, and this can lead to difficulties with storage facilities and washing accommodation.

PROSECUTIONS

No prosecutions were taken during the year and there were no instances where Section 22 was invoked.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	127	89	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding Out-workers premises)	7	4	-	-
TOTAL	141	95	2	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (Section 1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Section 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (Section 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (Section 4)	2	2	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

3. OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers in August List Required by Section 133 (1)(c)	No. of Cases of default in sending Lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply Lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Section 134	
					Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel making etc.	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

STUDENT

I am pleased to report that Miss Elizabeth Bowden completed her BSc Course in Environmental Health at the University of Aston in Birmingham in June, and was successful in obtaining an Honours - Class 2 Division 1 Degree.

R.H. HEBBRON

Chief Public Health Inspector

